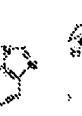


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On page 17 of claims, claim 22, line 4, delete “”; the resulting line should

read “     . . . ”.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the instantly claimed compounds and pharmaceutical compositions are novel and non-obvious over the prior art because of the structural limitation ring A is a saturated, 8-membered monocyclic ring having one ring nitrogen and 0 heteroatoms (i.e. tropane). The closest prior art is US Patent No. 6,506,750 (Ducoux et al., Jan. 14, 2003) which discloses compounds of formula (I) (page 2, column 2) wherein the definition of X results in piperazine or piperidine rings at the position of formula (I) which correlates to ring A of the instantly claimed compounds. Since the compounds disclosed in Ducoux et al. consist of only 6-membered rings at the position which correlates to ring A of the instantly claimed compounds, the compounds disclosed in US Patent No. 6,506,750 have different properties than the compounds of the instant claims and are, therefore, not within the scope of the compounds in the instant claims and are non-obvious variants.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably